Committee set up for solving problems of PIOs

123. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a committee for solving the problems of NRIs and People of Indian Origins;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the basic recommendations made by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the basic recommendations made by Government including the dual citizenship for NRIs; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for providing the dual citizenship to NRIs who are working for strengthening India's economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Besides making recommendations in the fields of culture, economic development, education, health, media, science and technology, the High Level Committee on India Diaspora has also recommended the observation each year of the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, institution of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, reduction in the fee structure of the PIO Card and grant of dual citizenship by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955 to persons of Indian origin who have acquired the citizenship of certain countries.

(d) The details and other modalities in this regard are being worked out.

Over-crowding in Tihar Jail

124. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tihar Jail which has a total capacity of 3637 inmates, was having 12,041 prisoners as on 31st December, 2002 and that nearly similar conditions prevail in all the jails in the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in the recent past as to how this over-crowding could be eliminated, either by way of adding more jails or by resorting to speedy trials; and

(c) if so, what effective steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) While the position as stated in respect of the Central Jail at Tihar is factually correct, there are several States and Union Territories in which the jails are operating within their capacity.

(b) and (c) No formal study in regard to over-crowding in the Central Jail, Tihar has been made in the recent past. However, the steps taken to reduce over-crowding in the Jail include construction of new jails; setting up of Special Courts to dispose off petty and minor offences; and taking up the matter with the High Court of Delhi for relaxation in surety conditions of those prisoners who have been granted bail but could not be released due to non-furnishing of surety bonds.

Request for UAVs by Andhra Pradesh

125. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh had requested for assistance for equipping its police force with Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) to check extremist activity; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted a proposal for procurement of an Unmanned Air Vehicle for Naxalites infested areas in the State in June, 1998. It was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Defence and the Border Security Force and not found useful for the purpose for which it was proposed to be acquired. The State Government was accordingly informed in April, 1999.